Claim 4, line 1, cancel "claims 2 and" and insert therefor --claim 2--.

Claim 4, line 2, cancel "3".

5. (Amended) Derivative of ubiquicidine or of a peptide fragment derived from ubiquicidine and comprising a continuous series of at least 3[, preferably at least 8] amino acids from the amino acid sequence of ubiquicidine:
5 KVHGSLARAGKVRGQTPKVAKQEKKKKKTGRAKRRMQYNRRFVNVVPTFGKKKGPNANS, which derivative has an amino acid sequence which is at least partly the reverse of the amino acid sequence of the corresponding original peptide [(fragment) (so-called "(partial) reverse peptide")].

6. (Amended) Derivative of a ubiquicidine or of a peptide fragment derived from ubiquicidine and comprising a continuous series of at least 3[, preferably at least 8] amino acids from the amino acid sequence of ubiquicidine:
5 KVHGSLARAGKVRGQTPKVAKQEKKKKKTGRAKRRMQYNRRFVNVVPTFGKKKGPNANS, wherein at least one of the amino acids from the original peptide (fragment) is replaced by a stereoisomer of that amino acid.

7. (Amended) Derivative of ubiquicidine or of a peptide fragment derived from ubiquicidine and comprising a continuous series of at least 3[, preferably at least 8] amino acids from the amino acid sequence of ubiquicidine:
5 KVHGSLARAGKVRGQTPKVAKQEKKKKKTGRAKRRMQYNRRFVNVVPTFGKKKGPNANS, wherein the original amino acid chain is extended at one or both ends thereof with one or more groups, such as D-amino acids, protecting against degradation.

9. (Amended) Hybrid molecule, comprising a cationic peptide with an antimicrobial action and/or a peptide fragment as claimed in [claims 2-4 and/or a derivative thereof as claimed in claims 5-8] claim 2, and one or more effector molecules.

17. (Amended) Derivatives as claimed in [claims 5-8] claim 5 for use in the diagnostics, prophylaxis or therapy of infections in humans and animals.

18. (Amended) Hybrid molecules as claimed in [claims 9-14] claim 9 for use in the diagnostics, prophylaxis, therapy or monitoring of infections in humans and animals.

19. (Amended) Peptide fragments as claimed in claim 15 [or 16, derivatives as claimed in claim 17 or hybrid molecules as claimed in claim 18] or derivative or hybrid molecules thereof, wherein the microbial infections are caused by pathogenic Gram-positive (*Staphylococcus aureus*, *Listeria monocytogenes* including antibiotic-resistant strains of *S.aureus* (also called Multidrug Resistant *S.aureus* (MRSA)) and Gram-negative ((antibiotic-resistant) *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, *Escherichia coli*, enterococci and *Salmonella typhimurium*) bacteria, micro-organisms difficult to treat, such as *Mycobacterium avium* and *Mycobacterium fortuitum*, fungi, such as *Candida albicans*, *Cryptococcus neoformans* and *Aspergillus fumigatis*, viruses, in particular enveloped viruses, and parasites, such as *Trypanosoma cruzi* and *Toxoplasma gondii*.

20. (Amended) Antimicrobial agent, comprising at least a suitable quantity of one or more active components chosen from ubiquicidine, peptide fragments derived from ubiquicidine and comprising a continuous series of at least 3[, preferably at least 8] amino acids from the amino acid sequence of ubiquicidine: KVHGSLARAGKVRGQTPKVAKQEKKKKKTGRAKRRMQYNRRFVNVVPTFGKKKGPNANS, [derivatives thereof as claimed in claims 5-8, hybrid molecules as claimed in claims 9-14,] optionally in the presence of one or more suitable excipients.

22. (Amended) Diagnostic agent, comprising a suitable quantity of one or more active components provided with a detectable label and chosen from ubiquicidine, peptide fragments derived from ubiquicidine and comprising a continuous series of at least 3[, preferably at least 8] amino acids from the amino acid sequence of ubiquicidine: KVHGSLARAGKVRGQTPKVAKQEKKKKKTGRAKRRMQYNRRFVNVVPTFGKKKGPNANS, [derivatives thereof as claimed in claims 5-8, hybrid molecules as claimed in claims 9-14] or derivative or hybrid molecules thereof.

26. (Amended) Method for preparing ubiquicidine, peptide fragments derived from ubiquicidine and comprising a continuous series of at least 3[, preferably at least 8] amino acids from the amino acid sequence of ubiquicidine: KVHGSLARAGKVRGQTPKVAKQEKKKKKTGRAKRRMQYNRRFVNVVPTFGKKKGPNANS, [derivatives thereof as claimed in claims 5-8, hybrid molecules as claimed in claims 9-14] or derivative or hybrid molecules thereof

by transforming an animal egg-cell with a gene construct which codes for the ubiquicidine, peptide fragment, derivative or hybrid molecule, regenerating a transgenic animal from the transformed egg-cell and isolating the ubiquicidine, peptide fragment, derivative or hybrid molecule from a tissue or bodily fluid of the animal, for instance milk.

Add new claims 27 as follows:

--27. Hybrid molecule, comprising a cationic peptide with an antimicrobial action and/or a peptide fragment as claimed in claim 5 and one or more effector mol3ecules.--

IN THE ABSTRACT:

After the claims, please insert a page containing the Abstract Of The Disclosure, which is attached hereto as a separately typed page.

REMARKS

The above amendments to the claims have been submitted herewith to conform the concurrently filed patent application to customary United States practice and to eliminate the multiple dependencies in the claims. Claim 1 has been canceled, claims 4, 5-7, 9, 17-20, 22 and 26 have been amended and claim 27 has been added to further define the invention.

An Abstract Of The Disclosure has been added as a separately typed page to be inserted after the claims.